

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. Not Assigned

8. (Amended) A stent according to any of claim 5, wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.

9. (Amended) A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in its fully unloaded conformation the angle  $\alpha$  between filaments is less than  $90^\circ$ .

10. (Amended) A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the angle at which the filaments are joined to one another is in the range  $0^\circ$  to  $15^\circ$ .

11. (Amended) A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the filaments bend outwardly towards the join, the angle at which they bend increasing as the filaments extend towards the join.

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